

Worcester Art Museum
Worcester,
Mass.

CATALOGUE
OF
LACQUERS

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JOHN CHANDLER BANCROFT



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1 Box of Zonzei lacquer. Landscape decoration.

2 Box with two compartments. Decoration of gold lacquer from a design by the artist, TAMAGAWA.

3 Writing stand of mulberry wood, decorated with storks in gold lacquer.

4 Bunko. Decoration on the outside is a landscape of Yoshino Yama done in gold lacquer. The under side of the cover shows a river with floating cherry blossoms all done in gold. The inside of the box is finished with Nashiji lacquer.

6 Metal mirror with lacquered case. Decoration on the case is the crest of a Daimyo of Satsuma in gold on a nashiji ground.

7 Wooden writing case. Decoration, a peony inlaid, and a chrysanthemum in relief done in gold. Designed by HANZAN.

8 Tray with a conventional design in gold lacquer.

9 Lunch box, four parts with extra cover. Black, with decoration of toys slightly raised done in gold and colored lacquer.

10 Small box with three compartments. Decoration of gold plum blossoms on a black ground. Inside finished in Trashiji.

11 See number 9.

12 Jnidei Sugi writing case. The decoration is an inlaid design of a butterfly and flowers of porcelain, with gold lacquer on a nat-

ural wood ground. Inside has a Chidori decoration in gold.

13 Small incense box. Tiny chrysanthemums painted on the cover. Inside done with nashiji lacquer. This box holds six small round boxes each with flowers on its cover.

14 Lacquer box. Peony tendrils on a nashiji ground.

15 Tray of Negoro lacquer. Butterflies of mother of pearl. Very rare.

16 Carved lacquer writing case. The decoration is of carved cherry blossoms finished in Zonzei lacquer.

17 A "Tonkotsu" made of inlaid kiri wood. JAKUWO was the maker.

18 Writing case. The decoration is a Chinese landscape on the outside and flowers inside of gold lacquer and stained ivory inlaid.

19 Wooden cup, Chinese. Carved with minute Chinese characters and finished inside with plain red lacquer.

20 Wooden writing case. Decoration is the mythical Omega bird and flowers in malachite and mother of pearl inlaid.

21 Round box of Kamakura lacquer. Flowers carved in the lacquer.

22 Cedar box, with inlaid birds and trees. Designed by HARITSU.

23 Box, with Chidori birds flying over waves, done in gold. Same inside.

24 Chinese writing set, consisting of
and a bunko, or box, and writing case
25 of red Chinese lacquer, and decorated with scenes from life in China.

26 Box. Lacquer inlaid with pearl to form chrysanthemum tendrils.

27 Pair of jade tablets on teak wood
& stands. One has an inscription
37 in Chinese, and the other a five clawed dragon, a mark of royalty. These tablets were presented to the Hon. George Bancroft, then United States Minister to Germany, by the Chinese Minister there.

28 Tray. This piece is a good example of "Guri" lacquer. There are three layers of black and two of red, carved in deep sweeping curves to show the two colors.

29 Writing case. Decorated with scenes of hawking, done in gold lacquer and gold and lead inlaid. The inside has a country landscape on a nashiji ground.

30 Writing case. This piece is finished in polished silver, decorated with figures of fishermen of Jeshin in a boat, done in colored lacquer.

31 Sake cup. Modern. Chrysanthemums inside and out. The lacquer is known as "Taka-makiye", a name given to all work that is the result of inlaying or incrusting with gold, koban or silver. Koban is an alloy of silver.

32 Box of Guri lac. This piece

shows two layers of red and three of black.

33 Tray. Decoration by KORIN from one of his own designs. Iris of lacquer, pewter and mother of pearl inlaid. Korin was born at Kioto in 1661, and was a painter and designer of singular power and originality, as well as a consummate artist in lacquer work, departing from all accepted conventions. His gold lacquer was unique in its color, and made his designs look as if they were carved from a block of gold. He got from incrustations of silver, lead and tin astonishing effects. With lead and tin used to get gray tones, in flat surfaces or high relief he obtains a series of distances, an inkling of which he found in the work of the old artists, but which he alone brought to perfection.

34 Wooden writing case. Persimmon wood carved with Chinese figures, and finished with transparent lacquer.

35 Tobacco case with two drawers and a brass handle. Decorated with flowers and medallions. The shelf has chrysanthemums.

36 Wooden writing case. Inlaid design of a priest under a pine tree, in a reserve made by inlaying a strip of metal. The sides are of gold lacquer. The whole is finished to represent natural wood.

37 Jade tablet, with imperial five clawed dragon. See No. 27.

38 Wooden tonkotsu. Decoration, bees and butterflies inlaid in box wood; from a

design by SHUKAIDO. The netsuke is of wood, inlaid with a design in ivory, on one side a devil and a woman under an umbrella; on the other, a blind man. To keep the strings together is an "ojinie", carved in the shape of a chrysanthemum by the artist JUKO.

39 Tray. Decorated with a design of the makugio and lotus.

40 Portable screen. Decorated on one side with warriors, on the other with a picture of a bridge.

41 Writing case. The cover bears a landscape in gold lacquer. The reverse of the cover shows a flock of wild geese.

42 Tray with four legs. Decoration: peonies in gold lacquer.

43 Writing case. The cover bears pine and cherry trees, while the inside has cherry blossoms.

44 Writing case. Hydrangea of gold lacquer and mother of pearl. The inside has a picture of Chidori birds flying over waves, in gold.

45 Lunch box, with cover, and five compartments. Black lacquer with peonies and plums within a border, of gold and silver lacquer. The inside has a plain red lacquer finish.

46 Small round incense box, with flowers in lacquer of a high polish.

47 Small incense box. Landscape with flowers.

48 Medicine case, with a number of trays and boxes. Ornamentation of plums.

49 Letter box. This piece has the mythical "howo" and "kiri". This style of box was sent with letters or notes which were put in the box, a cord fastened in a certain conventional way, and carried by a servant who wore a cloth over his mouth and nose to prevent the possibility of his breathing on the box. The answer was sometimes returned in the same box but more often in one belonging to the recipient. When the note came from a nobleman, the box was often kept as a gift.

50 Lacquer case with drawers. Decorated with scenes from Chinese life, done in zonzei lacquer.

51 Writing case. The inside has a decoration of Chidori birds flying over waves, done in gold lacquer. It has two compartments.

52 Letter box. Peonies done in Mitsada lacquer on a red background. For the use of these boxes, see No. 49.

53 Tray with four little legs. Bears a conventional design with fans inlaid with gold and pewter suns on a black ground.

54 Writing case. Decoration of flowers in gold. The same inside.

55 Tray. Tamagawa design done in gold and mother of pearl inlaid.

56 Lacquer tansu, with seven draw-

Decorated with flowers and birds in gold.

57 Small box of Tsuishu lacquer. Fan shape, with a design of storks and peonies carefully carved. Tsuishu lacquer is a heavy body of red lacquer carved into landscapes, or birds and flowers, and is an imitation of Chinese work. It first came into vogue in Japan about 1500, and reached its highest excellence in the hands of Tsui-shu-ya Ji-ro-ye-mon in the first half of the 18th century.

58 Bamboo tonkotsu. Decorated with conventional characters carved in the bamboo.

59 Screen of kamakura lacquer, for use on a writing desk. Shaped and lacquered to represent the sun rising from waves of carved and lacquered wood, with chidori birds of inlaid mother of pearl flying across. The other side shows a kingfisher and the moon.

60 Box for tea. Decorated with a brocade design in gold.

61 Case with two compartments. Decorated with the figure of a boy and flowers, in reserves of zonzei lacquer on a black ground.

62 Tray. Decorated with crests in gold on a beautifully polished mirror black ground.

63 Writing case. Decorated with a hawk and a pine tree on the cover. Birds on the sides. The inside is finished in nashiji.

64 Writing case. Decorated with a conventional design of brass wire inlaid with

lacquer to represent cloisonne. The center has the figure of "Hotei", one of the seven Gods of Good Fortune, with his bag of precious things.

65 Wooden box. Bears a design of a landscape with a rustic fence and a pine tree with flying birds. The decoration is partly carved and partly inlaid with ivory and mother of pearl.

66 Round box. A chrysanthemum of zonzai lacquer on the cover surrounded by a raised border of archaic design.

67 Hexagonal tray. Decorated with a landscape and pond; inlaid ivory, jade and mother of pearl.

68 Tray. Guri lac, carved with a bird and flowers.

69 Box. Decorated with an incense box and fan in taka-makiye on a brocaded background. Inside has nashiji lacquer.

70 Tonkotsu. Bamboo inlaid with mother of pearl. The work of KITEI.

71 Incense box. Large chrsanthemum on the cover, small flowers for a border.

72 Case with a collection of kodzukas and menuki by GOTO. The Goto family was the most renowned of Japanese metal workers, and first appeared in the 15th century. Their work has never been excelled. These pieces date from the last of the 17th Cent. The kodzuka is the handle of the dagger which fits into the scabbard of a Japanese sword. The menuki

is an ornament on the hilt to give a good grip.

73 Tray. Lacquered to imitate
bronze. Bamboo and cherry in taka-makiye
lacquer.

W. A. M.

Press.

1906.

No. 9.

